

Chicago, IL- U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk joined Cook County State's Attorney Richard Devine Wednesday in announcing \$1 million in new federal funds for the Cook County Cold Case Unit. Started in 1999, the Cold Case Unit reopened over 200 cold case homicides. In just six years, the Unit solved 35 of those murders - including the infamous Palatine Brown's Chicken massacre where two alleged killers who walked free for almost 10 years are awaiting trial.

Kirk, a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee, secured the funding as part of the Justice Department's Appropriations legislation for FY06.

"The Cold Case Unit's success record with unsolved homicide cases led several suburban
<?XML:NAMESPACE PREFIX = ST1 /><ST1:PLACE w:st="on">Cook County police departments to seek their help," said Congressman Kirk. "The additional funding will help hire personnel to reverse a growing trend of unsolved murder cases in our Chicago area communities. Finding justice for those murdered and closure for their families is important work and I am pleased that federal funds will expand this important law enforcement unit."

The Chicago Police Department, Cook County Sheriff's Department and Illinois Police Department, along with over 100 suburban Cook County law enforcement agencies, can seek support from the Cold Case Unit. Since its creation, the Cold Case Unit solved several infamous suburban cases including:

-- The 1993 **Palatine Brown's Chicken massacre**, where seven people were murdered in cold blood, went unsolved for nearly 10 years. Updated DNA testing

and years of investigation led to charges against two individuals in 2002 who are awaiting trial.

-- The 2003 **Murder of Joe Cacharelis of Winnetka** left no eyewitnesses, no murder weapon and no confession. Cacharelis was shot 11 times less than a mile

from his home. One year later, after additional investigation by the Cold Case

Unit, David Kraybill was charged with the murder. He was convicted in February.

"With this additional money, we can continue to aggressively investigate murder cases despite the passage of time," State's Attorney Devine said. "We would like to thank the U.S. Department of Justice and Congressman Kirk for recognizing the importance of solving these cases as it provides a sense of justice and closure for grieving families who have given up hope of ever seeing an old case resolved."

The Cook County Cold Case Unit is comprised of a team of prosecutors, police and investigators who work together from the moment a case is reopened to the conclusion of the prosecution. Currently, the Cold Case Homicide Unit is prosecuting 39 cases and has 89 open

homicide investigations.

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